

Stanford, J.K. & Mayr, E. 1941. The Vernay-Cutting expedition to northern Burma. *Ibis* (14) 5: 213–245.

*Addresses:* Philip D. Round, Department of Biology, Faculty of Science, Mahidol University, Rama 6 Road, Bangkok 10400, pdround@ksc.th.com; Anak Pattanavibool, Western Forest Complex Ecosystem Management Project, Royal Forest Department, Chatuchak, Bangkok 10900, anak@forest.go.th

© British Ornithologists' Club 2003

## **Rediscovery of John Crampton W. Kershaw's birds from Macau, including his record of Small *Niltava Niltava macgrigoriae***

*by Frank D. Steinheimer, Emmett R. Easton & Richard W. Lewthwaite*

*Received 11 June 2002*

John Crampton W. Kershaw (died August 1950 aged 79) considered himself an entomologist rather than an ornithologist and referred to himself as a retired zoologist in later years (Kershaw 1907, Vaughan & Jones 1913, Easton 1999 a,b), yet published an important list of the birds of Macau ("Macao") and adjacent parts of the Guangdong ("Quangtung" or "Kwangtung") coast east to Hong Kong (Kershaw 1904). Following Robert Swinhoe's pioneering visit in 1860 (Swinhoe 1861), Kershaw's paper was not the first to deal with this area but added to the list and included notes on the status and seasonality of most species. In this respect it has subsequently proved to be of much value in the ornithological progress of the area (Vaughan & Jones 1913, Mell 1922, Herklots 1953, Carey *et al.* 2001).

As is clear from the opening sentences of the paper, Kershaw's list of species is based mainly on his own collection of birds, which was made between October 1901 and June 1903, chiefly at Macau. Thus, he included in the duck accounts only those species "of which I have shot specimens myself" (Kershaw 1904: 235). He also "often shot Cuckoos" (Kershaw 1907: 139), more through interest in their 'entomological' stomach contents than the birds themselves. However, until recently, it was not known whether any part of his Macau bird collection was still in existence. New investigations at The Natural History Museum, Tring, have now brought some of Kershaw's South China birds to light.

### **Method**

All possible collections within Europe, especially in Britain, were checked for the name 'Kershaw' and collectors' names associated with him, by consulting several

web catalogues (e.g. [www.man.ac.uk/fenscore](http://www.man.ac.uk/fenscore)), literature (Roselaar 2003) and The Natural History Museum accession indices. Additionally, one rare bird record from his publication was chosen to trace the actual specimen among museums' holdings.

## Result

The Natural History Museum egg acquisition index quotes the receipt of one Slaty-backed Forktail *Enicurus schistaceus* egg in 1909 via the Stuart Baker collection, which derived from Kershaw and was very likely taken at Dinghu Shan, as well as two eggs, probably of the Plaintive Cuckoo *Cacomantis merulinus*, found together with eggs of Common Tailorbird *Orthotomus sutorius* (2 preserved), from Macau. Other than that, no sign of Kershaw's avian skin collection was found in any reference or web catalogues, though parts of his insect collections are known to have ended up in the Bishop Museum, Hawaii, the Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton, and the Oxford University Museum of Natural History, Oxford, UK (Smith 1986: 130).

Fortunately, however, the inclusion of Small Niltava *Niltava macgrigoriae* (ssp. *signata*, *vide* Watson *et al.* 1986 and Cheng 1987) in Kershaw's (1904) list allowed the collection to be rediscovered. This is the only record from the coast of Guangdong to date, and Kershaw's statement ("I have seen only one pair, in winter, the female of which I collected") led to the species being established in the regional literature, but not in that of Hong Kong (since no locality is given). Thus, Mell (1922) listed Kershaw's record as the only one for Guangdong "ein Paar im Winter gesehen" (one pair seen in winter), La Touche (1925-30) followed with "Kwangtung (one pair seen in winter)", Gee *et al.* (1926-27) with "Recorded from Kwangtung once in winter", and Cheng (1987) with "Guangdong Province ... rare in winter".

Summarising its distribution in China, Cheng (1987) stated that the Small Niltava (sub-species *signata*) is uncommon in summer and rare in winter, occurring as a breeding species in parts of Tibet, Yunnan and Guizhou, as a resident in eastern Guangxi, and in winter in Guangdong; an accompanying map indicated a wintering range south-east of its breeding range, from south-west Guangdong north to the West River and east to the Pearl River Delta (where Macau lies). Subsequently, Lewthwaite (1996) documented a range extension into northern and central Guangdong, southern Hunan, and north-west Fujian, whilst Fellowes & Hau (1997) added records from central Guangxi and south-west Guangdong. Small Niltava appears to be fairly common at some localities in south-east China, with virtually all records referring to birds on territory between 5 April and 19 August, the habitat being forest or shrubland at 1,000-1,900 m asl; one on 27 March at Nan Kun Shan in central Guangdong (less than 200 km north-east of Macau) was probably a migrant since there have been no other records from this locality (Lewthwaite 1996, Fellowes & Hau 1997, Lewthwaite unpublished data).

The Natural History Museum's collection holds only a single specimen of Small Niltava from South China, a female obtained at Macau, which was acquired within

Frederick William Styan's (1858-1934) collection. The date on the label, 11 February 1902, fits well with Kershaw's collecting period at Macau from October 1901 to June 1903 (Kershaw 1904). There are no signs of feather or bare part damage on the specimen, which might have suggested captive origins.

Styan retired from China in 1904 (Rickett 1935) and most likely brought his bird specimens back to England along with those collected by Kershaw. Kershaw himself left Macau to travel to Indonesia with the entomologist Frederick Arthur Godfrey Muir (1872-1931) from the Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association. They jointly discovered and subsequently described a new form of Red-bellied Pitta, *P. (erythrogaster) piroensis* Muir & Kershaw 1910, in Indonesia. This single specimen was donated to the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University, Cambridge Mass. (MCZ #49,997). Though Kershaw returned to South China in between his Indonesian travels, he then reported collecting only eggs and nests but no further skins (Kershaw 1911, The Natural History Museum egg acquisition index).

Styan himself never mentioned the first and only record of *Niltava macgrigoriae* for Macau as he did not publish ornithological papers after his return to Britain (except Styan 1928, cf. Rickett 1935). Thus it seems very likely that his specimen was indeed that of Kershaw (1904). Furthermore, nearly all Styan's Macau birds have the same kind of label, which is not found on any other specimen from Styan's collection. Styan never indicated on his collection labels the name of the actual field collector, though some of the birds still carry the original collector's label, several in Chinese.

In later years Styan and Kershaw maintained a long friendship, when both retired to Kent, UK. Some of Kershaw's specimens were clearly incorporated into Styan's collection before its donation to The Natural History Museum, then the British Museum of Natural History, between 1907 and 1914. Subsequently all specimens in Styan's collection, which comprised at that time 6,447 bird skins and 223 eggs (Rickett 1935), were credited to him as collector (cf. labels: Macao Kuan Tung Province, S. China / F. W. Styan, Esq. [P.]).

The Natural History Museum currently holds within the Styan collection 67 probable Kershaw specimens from Macau (several more were registered but could not be found, while additional Macau specimens remain too uncertain of deriving from Kershaw to be included). Kershaw seems not to have sexed his specimens internally as the sex is only stated if the species is sexually dimorphic. Exceptions, however, are the cuckoo species, of which he sexed several individuals internally, probably in the course of analysing their stomach contents (Kershaw 1907). His assumed original labels are in two different styles. The older ones are of the type "No 46. M. [for Macao] Mar. 21<sup>st</sup> /02" (from the specimen of *Sturnus sinensis*). Later labels take the form "*Oriolus diffusus* M. 2-6-03". Kershaw's skins are loosely stuffed, mostly with wood-wool, and always leave the incision un-sewn.

Twenty-nine birds from Macau collected, during October and November 1903 (BMNH 1914.8.15.316-322 & 394-396; 1914.8.20.45; 1914.9.3.101-115 & 157-

163 & 202-206 & 468), may derive from Styan himself as they are all sexed and are compiled in longer species series (e.g. 15 specimens of one species, while Kershaw seems to have never taken more than a dozen). Several of these presumed Styan birds (i.e. Japanese Waxwing *Bombycilla japonica*, Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, Common Redpoll *Carduelis flammea*, Long-tailed Rosefinch *Uragus sibiricus* and Pallas's Rosefinch *Carpodacus roseus*), however, seem to originate from further north, not from the southern coast of China. The few specimens from Hong Kong within the Styan collection seem not to be collected by either of the two collectors in question as most of them lack the collecting date.

We deduce that among Styan's birds (register entry) the following specimens were in fact collected by Kershaw (sequence and numbers follow Kershaw 1904; identification to sub-species is as sorted in The Natural History Museum and as given in literature, respectively; names from Peters *et al.* 1931-1986; OL = original label probably by Kershaw; uncertain designation to Kershaw in square brackets; discrepancies of label and register data mainly due to errors of the latter):

4. *Dendrocitta formosae sinica* BMNH 1914.8.10.135, Macau, 18 December 1901, coll. No. none.
9. *Myiophonus caeruleus caeruleus* BMNH 1914.5.13.20, Macau, 18 January 1902, coll. No. 17, OL.
10. *Erithacus sibilans* BMNH 1914.7.16.527, Macau, 15 January 1902, coll. No. none.
15. *Dicrurus macrocercus cathoecus* BMNH 1914.8.10.71, Macau, 17 April 1902, coll. No. 58, OL.
17. *Dicrurus leucophaeus* ssp. BMNH 1914.8.10.85, Macau, 15 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
20. *Coracina melaschistos avensis* BMNH 1914.5.6.433, Macau, 8 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL;  
BMNH 1914.5.6.452, Macau, 13 April 1902, coll. No. 56, OL.
23. *Lanius cristatus lucionensis* BMNH 1914.5.20.141, Macau, 29 April 1902, coll. No. 65, OL.
24. *Oriolus chinensis diffusus* BMNH 1914.8.10.99, female, Macau, 2 June 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.8.10.100, male, Macau, 29 April 1902, coll. No. 63, OL.
25. *Sturnus cineraceus* BMNH 1914.9.12.52, Macau, 20 February 1902, coll. No. 28, OL.
26. *Sturnus sericeus* BMNH 1914.9.12.56, Macau, February 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.9.12.57, Macau, 4 January 1902, coll. No. none; BMNH 1914.9.12.58, Macau, 3 January 1902, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.9.12.59, Macau, 18 January 1902, coll. No. 12, OL.
27. *Sturnus sinensis* BMNH 1914.9.12.39, Macau, 21 March 1902, coll. No. 46, OL.



29. *Acridotheres cristatellus cristatellus* BMNH 1914.9.12.1, Macau, February 1903, coll. No. none, OL; [BMNH 1914.9.12.2, registered as Crested Myna, is in fact a Blackbird; see below].
32. *Orthotomus sutoria longicauda* BMNH 1914.6.12.130, Macau, 27 January 1902, coll. No. 22, OL.
38. *Seicercus burkii* ssp. BMNH 1914.5.6.302, Macau, 27 December 1901, coll. No. none.
- [39.] *Urosphena squameiceps* BMNH 1914.6.12.174, Macau, 4 February 1902, coll. No. 24, OL [in Kershaw 1904 included in *Cettia canturiens* (sic)].
39. *Cettia diphone canturians* BMNH 1914.6.12.419, Macau, December 1902, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.6.12.418, Macau, 15 January 1902, coll. No. 15, OL [originally identified as *Larvivora sibilans* and previously stored as data-less unregistered duplicate; subsequent registration].
40. *Muscicapa griseisticta* BMNH 1914.5.6.52, Macau, 29 April 1902, coll. No. 64, OL.
42. *Niltava hainana* BMNH 1914.5.6.95, male, Macau, 10 April 1903 [in register 25 Oct. 1902], coll. No. none, OL.
43. *Muscicapa thalassina thalassina* BMNH 1914.5.6.192, Macau, 4 January 1902, coll. No. none; BMNH 1914.5.6.721, Macau, 7 January 1902, coll. No. 11, OL.
- [44. *Muscicapa dauurica dauurica* BMNH 1914.5.6.72, Macau, 19 April 1902, coll. No. none.]
45. *Niltava macgrigoriae signata* BMNH: 1914.5.6.190, Macau, 11 February 1902, coll. No. none.
50. *Ficedula narcissina* ? *narcissina* BMNH 1914.5.6.122, "female", Macau, 21 April 1902, coll. No. none.
53. *Saxicola torquata stejnegeri* BMNH 1914.6.12.420, Macau, 3 February 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
57. *Copsychus saularis prosthopellus* BMNH 1914.7.16.396, male, Macau, 28 February 1902, coll. No. 33, OL.
58. *Turdus dissimilis hortulorum* BMNH 1914.7.16.93, Macau, 11 December 1901, coll. No. none.
59. *Turdus merula mandarinus* BMNH 1914.7.16.153, Macau, 5 February 1902, coll. No. 25, OL; BMNH 1914.9.12.2 [register number refers to a Crested Myna in the register; see above], Macau, 5 February 1902, coll. No. 25, OL.
60. *Turdus cardis* BMNH 1914.7.16.139, Macau, 17 January 1902, coll. No. none.
62. *Monticola solitarius pandoo* BMNH 1914.7.16.214, Macau, 23 January 1902, coll. No. [?] [not found].
64. *Lonchura punctulata topela* BMNH 1914.9.3.654, Macau, 5 March 1902, coll. No. 39, OL.
68. *Carduelis sinica sinica* BMNH 1914.9.3.24, Macau, 26 February 1902, coll. No. 32, OL; BMNH 1914.9.3.25, Macau, 3 February 1903, coll. No. none, OL.

70. *Emberiza fucata fucata* / *kuatunensis* BMNH 1914.9.3.310, Macau, 3 March 1902, coll. No. [?] [not found].
71. *Emberiza spodocephala spodocephala* / *sordida* BMNH 1914.9.3.518, male, Macau, 7 April 1902, coll. No. 55, OL.
72. *Emberiza aureola* ssp. BMNH 1914.9.3.366, female, Macau, 1 October 1902, coll. No. none, OL
77. *Dendronanthus indicus* BMNH 1914.8.20.177, Macau, 20 April 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
78. *Anthus novaeseelandiae* ssp. BMNH 1914.8.20.227, Macau, 2 March 1902, coll. No. 35, OL.
79. *Anthus hodgsoni yunnanensis* BMNH 1914.8.20.195, Macau, 8 January 1902, coll. No. none; BMNH 1914.8.20.196, adult, Macau, 15 February 1902, coll. No. [?] [not found].
80. *Anthus cervinus* BMNH 1914.8.20.228, Macau, 5 March 1902, coll. No. 38, OL.
- [81. *Alauda arvensis* ssp. BMNH 1914.8.20.339, male, Macau, [no date], coll. No. [?] [not checked in collection]].
83. *Dicaeum cruentatum cruentatum* BMNH 1914.8.15.64, male, Macau, [no date], coll. No. none; BMNH 1914.8.15.65, male, Macau, January 1902, coll. No. none; BMNH 1914.8.15.66, female, Macau, January 1902, coll. No. none; BMNH 1914.8.15.67, female, Macau, 20 February 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
85. *Jynx torquilla chinensis* BMNH 1914.4.8.405, Macau, 15 February 1902, coll. No. none.
93. *Caprimulgus monticolus amoyensis* BMNH 1914.4.8.53, Macau, 8 December 1902, coll. No. none.
95. *Cuculus saturatus* ssp. BMNH 1914.4.8.181, Macau, 15 April 1902, coll. No. 57, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.119, Macau, 8 April 1903, coll. No. none, OL [originally id. as *C. micropterus*].
96. *Cuculus micropterus micropterus* BMNH 1914.4.8.120, “female with egg”, Macau, 10 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.121, male, Macau, 20 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.429, Macau, 20 April 1902, coll. No. [?] [not found].
98. *Cacomantis merulinus querulus* BMNH 1914.4.8.65, female [lacks head], Macau, March 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.66, Macau, 17 April 1901, coll. No. 6a, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.67, male, Macau, 1 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.68, “female with egg”, Macau, 1 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.69, “female with egg”, Macau, 1 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.72, male, Macau, 20 May 1903, coll. No. none, OL; BMNH 1914.4.8.73, Macau, 2 April 1902, coll. No. 52, OL.
- [103. *Asio flammeus flammeus* BMNH 1908.1.4.48, Macau, [no date], coll. No. [?] [not checked in collection]].

- [104. *Ketupa zeylonensis orientalis* BMNH 1908.1.4.47, Macau, [no date], coll. No. [?] [not checked in collection]].
114. *Streptopelia tranquebarica humilis* BMNH 1908.1.2.67, female, Macau, 16 April 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
115. *Streptopelia chinensis chinensis* BMNH 1908.1.2.66, Macau, March 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
119. *Francolinus pintadeanus pintadeanus* BMNH 1907.12.31.193, male, Macau, 24 February 1902, coll. No. none; BMNH 1907.12.31.265, Macau, 22 February 1903, coll. No. none, OL.
123. *Porzana pusilla pusilla* BMNH 1908.1.8.386, male, Macau, 6 October 1901, coll. No. [?] [not found].
124. *Amaurornis akool coccineipes* BMNH 1908.1.8.466, Macau, 17 April 1902, coll. No. 59, OL.
125. *Amaurornis phoenicurus chinensis* BMNH 1908.1.8.332, Macau, 30 March 1902, coll. No. 49, OL.
134. *Charadrius dubius curonicus / jerdoni* BMNH 1908.1.8.223, Macau, 10 March 1902, coll. No. [?] [not found].
141. *Erolia alpina* ssp. BMNH 1908.1.8.99, Macau, 28 December 1901, coll. No. none.

### Acknowledgements

We are grateful to Alison Pirie, Museum of Comparative Zoology, Gerald Legg, Booth Museum of Natural History, Stella Brecknell, Oxford University Museum of Natural History, and Mark Adams, The Natural History Museum, for additional information, and Michael Walters and Robert Prýs-Jones, who commented on an earlier draft.

### References:

- Carey, G. J., Chalmers, M. L., Diskin, D. A., Kennerley, P. R., Leader, P. J., Leven, M. R., Lewthwaite, R. W., Melville, D. S., Turnbull, M. & Young, L. 2001. *The avifauna of Hong Kong*. Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.
- Cheng, T. H. 1987. *A synopsis of the avifauna of China*. Science Press, Beijing.
- Easton, E. R. 1999a. John Crampton W. Kershaw. *Porcupine – Newsletter Dept. Ecol. & Biodiv. Univ. Hong Kong* 20: 5.
- Easton, E. R. 1999b. John Kershaw – Something old and something rare: the work of one of South China's earliest Naturalists. *Porcupine – Newsletter Dept. Ecol. & Biodiv. Univ. Hong Kong* 20: 28.
- Fellowes, J. R. & Hau C. H. 1997. *A faunal survey of nine forest reserves in tropical South China, with a review of conservation priorities in the region*. Kadoorie Farm & Botanic Garden, Hong Kong.
- Gee, N. G., Moffett, L. I. & Wilder, G. D. 1926-27. A tentative list of Chinese Birds. *Bulletin of the Peking Society of Natural History* 1 (1-3): 1-370.
- Herklots, G. A. C. 1953. *Hong Kong birds*. South China Morning Post, Hong Kong.
- Kershaw, J. C. 1904. List of the birds of the Quangtung Coast, China. *Ibis* 46: 235-248.
- Kershaw, J. C. 1907. *Butterflies of Hongkong (and south-east China)*. Kelly & Walsh, Hong Kong.
- Kershaw, J. C. 1911. [Letter to the editor] Nest of *Dicaeum cruentatum*. *Ibis* 5: 400-401.
- La Touche, J. D. D. 1925-1930. *A handbook of the birds of eastern China* [...]. Vol. I. Taylor & Francis, London.

- Lewthwaite, R. W. 1996. Forest birds of Southeast China. *Hong Kong Bird Report* 1995: 150-203.
- Mell, R. 1922. Beiträge zur Fauna Sinica - I. Die Vertebraten Südchinas; Feldlisten und Feldnoten der Säuger, Vögel, Reptilien, Batrachier. *Archiv für Naturgeschichte* 88: 1-134.
- Muir, F. & Kershaw, J. C. 1910. A new bird from the island of Ceram, Moluccas. *Proceedings of the Biological Society of Washington* 23: 65.
- Peters, J. L. et al. 1931-1986. *Check-list of birds of the world*. Vols. 1-16. Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge, Mass.
- Rickett, C. B. 1935. Obituary: Frederic William Styan. *Ibis* 72: 210.
- Roselaar, C. S. 2003. An inventory of major European bird collections. In Collar, N. J., Fisher, C. T., Feare, C. J. (eds.) *Why Museums Matter: Avian Archives in an Age of Extinction*. *Bulletin of the British Ornithologists' Club, Supplement* 123A: 253-337.
- Smith, A. Z. 1986. *A history of the Hope entomological collections in the University Museum Oxford with lists of archives and collections*. Clarendon Press, Oxford.
- Styan, F. W. 1928. A trip to central Fukien. *The China Journal* 9: 181-186.
- Swinhoe, R. 1861. Notes on the ornithology of Hong Kong, Macao and Canton, made during the latter end of February, March, April, and the beginning of May, 1860. *Ibis* 1861: 23-57.
- Vaughan, R. E. & Jones, K. H. 1913. The birds of Hong Kong, Macao, and the West River or Si Kiang in South-East China, with special reference to their nidification and seasonal movements. *Ibis* 55: 17-76.
- Watson, G. E., Traylor, M. A. & Mayr, E. 1986. Family Muscicapidae (*sensu stricto*), Old World Flycatchers. In Mayr, E. & Cottrell, G. W. (eds.) *Check-list of birds of the world*, vol. XI: 295-375. Museum of Comparative Zoology, Cambridge Mass.
- Webster, M. A. 1975. *An annotated checklist of the birds of Hong Kong*. The Hong Kong Bird Watching Society, Hong Kong.

*Addresses:* Frank D. Steinheimer, Museum für Naturkunde (Berlin) & The Natural History Museum (Tring), c/o Sylter Strasse 18, D-90425 Nürnberg, Germany, franksteinheimer@yahoo.co.uk; Emmett R. Easton, 46-130 Kiowai Street, #2714 Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744, USA; Richard W. Lewthwaite, ELT Unit, CUHK, Sha Tin, Hong Kong, China.

© British Ornithologists' Club 2003

## **New and noteworthy records for some endemic and threatened birds of the Atlantic forest of north-eastern Brazil**

*by Sônia Aline Roda, Caio José Carlos & Roberta Costa Rodrigues*

*Received 6 July 2002*

The Atlantic forest of north-eastern Brazil includes all forest situated north of the São Francisco River in the states of Alagoas, Pernambuco and Paraíba (Silva & Tabarelli 2000). It occupies an area of c. 35,000 km<sup>2</sup> and has been identified as an important area of endemism in South America (Prance 1987). Despite its biological importance, most of the Atlantic Forest of north-eastern Brazil has been replaced by agriculture, and only c. 2% of its original area remains, in small fragments that